

# OREGON RADIO & DATA DISTRICTS

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SHAWN HALSEY

MICHAEL ROXBURY

# OVERVIEW

- The Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District is authorized to acquire, maintain, and upgrade the voice and data communication systems used by local agencies that include police, fire, and emergency medical service within Umatilla and Morrow Counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- The District supports interoperability with state and federal agencies.
- Voter approved taxing authority ensures a fair method of stable funding for a critical service that supports multiple jurisdictions. The organizational structure of a Special District provides strong, effective governance with local oversight and representation.

# HISTORY

- The Bi-County Communications System was constructed with funds provided by federal grants associated with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) and became operational in the Summer of 2004. Funding for the System ended in May 2012, after the United States Army completed the demilitarization of chemical weapons at the Umatilla Army Depot.
- Before the System was installed, local public safety agencies built their own small, separate communications systems. At the time of the District's formation, most of these standalone systems no longer existed or had become obsolete due to age and federal narrowbanding requirements.
- The ability to form a radio and data district was created in 2009 when the Oregon Legislature passed and Governor Kulongoski signed House Bill 3254, which added ORS 403.500-403.542 Radio & Data Districts to the Oregon Revised Statutes.
- The District was formed in the May 2010 election. Funding was approved by the voters in November 2010. The District is funded by a property tax of \$.17 per \$1000 of assessed property value.

# ORS 403.500 – 403.542

## ■ Governing Body

- 3 to 5 Directors plus Administrator.
- 4 Year Terms
- Either equal geographic areas within the District, at large, or a combination.

# DISTRICT POWERS

## 403.525

- To have and use a common seal.
- To sue and be sued in the name of the district.
- To construct, reconstruct, acquire, maintain, upgrade and operate radio and data communication facilities and equipment, including land, buildings, improvements and other property needed to maintain two-way radio and data emergency communications within the district and to connect with other emergency communications facilities and networks within and outside of the district.
- To acquire by lease, purchase, gift, devise, condemnation proceedings or otherwise such real and personal property and rights of way, either within or without the limits of the district as, in the judgment of the district board, are necessary or proper to fulfill the purposes of the district, and to pay for and hold the same.

## DISTRICT POWERS CONT'D

- To make and accept any and all contracts, deeds, leases, releases and documents of any kind that, in the judgment of the district board, are necessary or proper to the exercise of any power of the district, and to direct the payment of all lawful claims or demands.
- To assess, levy and collect taxes to pay the cost of acquiring sites for and constructing, reconstructing, altering, operating and maintaining any property, equipment or facilities that may be acquired, or any lawful claims or demands against the district, and the operating expenses of the district.
- To employ all necessary agents and employees.

# DISTRICT POWERS CONT'D

- To make and enforce rules and regulations for the proper operations of the district.
- To prohibit any person that violates any rule or regulation from thereafter using the facilities of the district for such period as the district board may determine.
- To call necessary or proper district elections after the formation of the district.
- To enlarge the boundaries of the district as provided by ORS 198.705 to 198.955.

## DISTRICT POWERS CONT'D

- To establish and collect reasonable fees and charges to support district operations and the maintenance and operation of district property, facilities and equipment.
- Generally to do and perform any and all acts necessary and proper to the complete exercise and effect of any of the district's powers or the purposes for which the district was formed.



# FUNDING

- Property Taxes
  - Permanent Rate Limit or Local Option
- Bonding
- User Agency Fees

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Do you charge your user agencies?
- Do you offer services other than LMR?
- Do you have agreements in place with all of your agencies?
- Can I have a copy of your user agreement?
- What is your relationship with the dispatch centers?
- How are is a Radio & Data District different from a Communications District?
- How will you be paying for your system upgrades?
- What specific costs can you cover?

## MORE QUESTIONS, PLEASE

- Shawn Halsey, Administrator [shawn.halsey@umrdd.org](mailto:shawn.halsey@umrdd.org) –  
541-966-3774
- Michael Roxbury, Board Chair [Michael.Roxbury@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.Roxbury@gmail.com)
- [www.umardd.org](http://www.umardd.org)